

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of December 21, 2016.

Board members present were Stephan Miller, Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Scott Smith and Phil Goff. Ron Sender was absent. Others attending were Rod Holland, Elizabeth Shea, Emily Snyder, and Nat Strosberg.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

*Approval of the November minutes. The draft minutes were approved unanimously without amendments.

The TAC report. Scott told us that a new assistant Town Engineer has been hired. He discussed the progress of the Arlington Center Project with the new engineer and learned that the new lights at Swan Pl. will be installed in late winter or spring. This gives us some time to prepare an education campaign about the use of the new Hawk light signals. Phil asked about the implementation of the green pavement markings in the Center. Scott answered that this will also be completed in the spring. Stephan asked about the no turn on red signs. Most of these signs were removed during the renovations and have not been replaced. Many motorists are turning right while the light is red which is a danger to pedestrians and bicyclists. Each of us should request that the signs be replaced.

Mass. Ave. Rebuild. Scott told us that the newly installed video detection systems in East Arlington do not seem to detect bikes at night and no one is sure how to fix the problem. Phil told us that there is also a problem during the day. There appears to be no solution to this problem on the horizon. Scott also told us that the committee to explore the placement of a signal at the Lake St./Bikeway crossing is forming. We designated Elizabeth as our representative. Also, Special Town Meeting voted to consider lowering the town speed limit to 25 MPH. TAC is currently mulling over the implementation because there are statutory exceptions that require both lower and higher speeds on some streets.

Plowing of the Bikeway. Stephan commented that the Bikeway is not being completely plowed. After the last storm, the plowed area was only one lane wide. This results in a snow berm down the middle of the other lane which can persist all winter making the use of that lane impossible. Rod mentioned that there were areas of the Bikeway where the plowing was off the path. Also, there were some stretches of the Bikeway where the snow was not plowed down to the pavement making passage very hazardous. In addition, the new bike lanes on the street in the Center were not correctly plowed. Rod submitted trouble tickets on the Town Website. The result was no action but the thaw saved the day. Nat will speak to the correct parties at the DPW and ask that more attention be paid to making winter bicycling in Arlington safer.

BikeShare coming to Arlington. Nat told us that the bike share committee feels that they need more time for research on how to proceed. There are questions remaining about the Hubway negotiations, possible regional or local sponsors and what kind of public support can be found. Lexington is favoring Zagster because they see the primary purpose of bike sharing in their town as tourism rather than commuting. Nat told us that there is now a third bikeshare alternative which has been implemented in Salem. This is basically a bike rental system for tourists. He

confirmed that the bike share questions will be included in the Annual Vision 2020 Questionnaire to be sent out with the Annual Town Census. Nat thinks that the committee will know the answers to these questions by early spring.

Joey reminded us that a contract with Zagster, which is for three years, comes with a non-compete clause so we would not be able to use Hubway during this period. Nat commented that our fee structure with Hubway, as an outlying town, would be different than the structure for the more core communities. We would be paying more. The committee will be presenting their preliminary data to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on January 9.

Bike counters. Nat told us that the Metropolitan Area Planning Council has some new high tech counting equipment and they want to test it. He is talking to them about testing the equipment in Arlington. This will give us some experience in using this kind of automation. Joey told us that it is important that gender differences among cyclists be included in our counts because this information is utilized by the State. For this reason, she thinks that the gender category should be reinstated in our counts. Scott then told us he knows of some research concluding that these distinctions are useful.

Bikeway hours. Nat told us that he has presented the question of whether to eliminate the hours of use of the Bikeway to the Town Manager (TM). The TM is currently evaluating the question. There will also be a question this topic on the Annual Vision 2020 Questionnaire.

LAB Bicycle Friendly Town Award. Nat suggested that we have some kind of celebration about this designation in addition to the acknowledgement from the BOS. Phil thought we might incorporate this into the Annual Winter Social.

Annual Winter Social. We discussed the possibility of having the event at the Common Ground Pub again. Christopher reminded us that it will cost about \$200. We all thought that that was a reasonable expense. Phil thinks that we should emphasize the LAB award and the recent history of bicycling in Arlington and tie it to the Bikeway Anniversary.

Bikeway 25th Anniversary. Nat told us that 11 people have volunteered for the Anniversary Planning Committee. The first meeting will be January 19th. The TM has been briefed and Nat will keep him informed about the committee's deliberations.

Bicycle repair station. Whole Foods, the sponsor of the station, has ordered the station and it will be installed beside the Bikeway in the Uncle Sam Park in the spring.

Blinding bicycle lights on the Bikeway. We spent some time speculating about who installed the bike light signs on the Bikeway on Arlington. The next discussion was about what to do about the problem mentioned on the signs. It appears that there is no easy solution other than trying to educate bicyclists to aim their lights down towards the road.

Bikeway signage. The Toole report on Bikeway signage, commissioned by Lexington, will be available to us soon. We will evaluate the suggestions and pass this information on to the DPW.

Handicapped parking requires moving bike racks. The installation of handicapped parking will mean that some bike racks in East Arlington will have to be moved. Three of the new spots impact current bicycle parking. Phil told us that three of the racks slated to be moved are near the Fox Branch Library and are heavily used. Furthermore, there is no obvious place to move them to. He further outlined the problems with moving the racks to another location. He wondered whether all the racks actually must be moved because they don't appear to impede exit from vehicles parked in those spots. Joey suggested that the racks could possibly be relocated closer to the buildings as the sidewalks are now wider in that area. We will have to look at this problem in more detail to figure out a compromise.

Tri Town Bicycle Committee meeting summary. There was a lot of discussion about ebikes. Christopher asked if there was any state wide legislation on this topic. We decided at that meeting to contact MassBike and find out where ebikes are on their agenda. Bedford gave an update on progress of the Minuteman Bikeway Extension. Progress on renovating the stretch of that bikeway in Bedford is slowly moving forward. There was some talk about building a culvert under Rt. 62 to facilitate the passage of bicycles past that busy intersection but this discussion is still ongoing.

Spring Bikeway Cleanup. The trash cans along the Bikeway have mitigated the problem of trash along the Bikeway so we debated the value of doing a cleanup next spring. We decided that we will evaluate the need for a cleanup this winter. Phil told us that there is much more trash on the Alewife Greenway and maybe we should concentrate our efforts on cleaning that up. We thought we could possibly ask for help from neighboring bicycle committees because the Greenway is on the border with Somerville and Cambridge.

*Christopher asked for a motion to thank Stephan for his many years of service to ABAC. The motion passed unanimously.

*There was a second motion proposed to nominate Elizabeth Shea to fill the vacancy. The motion passed unanimously.

*This meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm

*A vote of the board was taken.

These minutes submitted by Stephan Miller